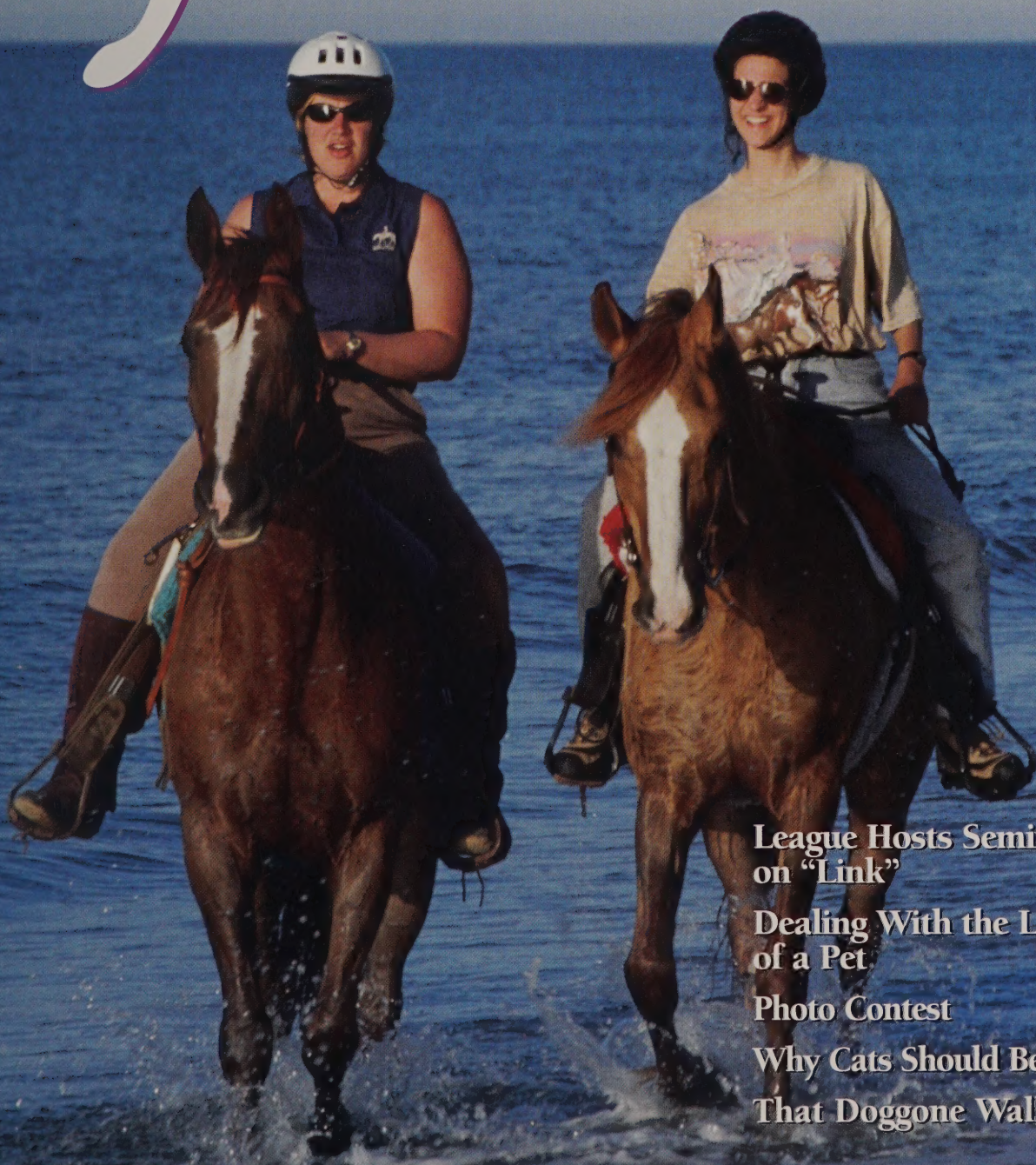


Our fourfooted friends

A publication of the Animal Rescue League of Boston  Summer 1998



League Hosts Seminar
on "Link"

Dealing With the Loss
of a Pet

Photo Contest

Why Cats Should Be Indoors
That Doggone Walk

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On the Cover

Robin Garran (l.) of Nelson's Riding Stable in Provincetown enjoys the ocean air with her equine friend, "JoJo Dancer" a rescued horse who had been previously abused. Also along for the ride are Valerie Kostaras (r.), League humane educator, and "Heffa," a 35-year-old veteran of Cape Cod's beautiful beaches.

Our fourfooted friends

Volume 95, No. 6  Summer 1998



Publisher of *our fourfooted friends*

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Our fourfooted friends

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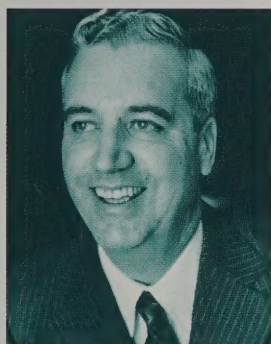


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A Message from the President

A Growing Concern

Animal neglect and abuse have taken many forms over the years of the humane movement, but none have been more violent or vicious than some of the acts we are seeing today.



Arthur G. Slade
President

Many of these acts involve dogs and the gangs of young people who have them. Major population centers across the country, including Boston, are faced with a growing concern and increasing violence connected with dog fighting and the violent image fighting-type dogs portray. One of the most frightening aspects of this activity is the age of the people involved. It is not uncommon to see young teenagers, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen years old, forming a major part of very vicious street gangs. They have no regard for the suffering of their animals, and they have little more concern for the people they terrorize with their dogs. The dogs have become a macho image for them, and they use the dogs for terrorizing and robbing people on the streets to support illicit activities with drugs and for gambling on the outcome of their dogfights. They are breeding increasing numbers of bigger and more vicious dogs with a resulting sharp increase in the numbers of animal bite cases. In the face of an upswing in the rabies epidemic, this presents another real danger as few if any such dogs receive any veterinary care.

These are not easy groups to deal with, and it is requiring a whole new approach for animal control. In fact, many cities are finding it necessary to create task forces made up of police, animal control officers and humane society law enforcement officials. Even with such combined efforts, results are often limited and the courts are limited in their ability to act due to the youthful ages of the offenders.

There is an even greater and more lasting danger that often results from such cruelty and wanton disregard for living creatures. There is absolute, documented evidence that nearly

all violent and assault-type crimes against people are committed by people who have a history of cruelty and abuse of animals. This is true of most serial killers, and it is also true of very young people who commit mass murders. The recent rash of school-age kids killing their parents and school classmates are tragic examples of this result.

Where do we find the answers and the solutions? Clearly the solutions are not simple or easy and time is not in our favor. It would seem likely that a number of approaches are necessary. First we need to upgrade our laws with enlightened and realistic provisions that treat these offenses as the serious felony crimes that they are. Next we need to educate the public about the serious, far-reaching nature of such crimes. For permanent improvement, we need action from all levels of society to cause a change in our social attitudes so that family values and responsibilities become of paramount importance.

We are at a dangerous crossroads in this country and left unchecked and disregarded, we will see a criminal level of violence consume what we and others have long valued as a kind and caring humane form of social behavior. Such conditions are virtually out of control in many communities today. The danger is real, and it is now! Delay in acting on such conditions may prove tragic, and the moral decay of our social values may prove to be beyond recovery in many instances.

We need to see a rebirth of an aware and caring society that acknowledges the link between youthful abuse of animals and violence toward humans in later life. Never has it been more essential that we have a close working relationship between animal and child welfare organizations to deal with cruelty and abuse by young people in their formative years. Humane education in our schools that teaches an appreciation for all living things is vitally needed to help combat an increasingly violent lifestyle among too many of our young people. 🐾

Rescue News



"Big Mac" is lounging in his yard and wondering if his new owners like hamburgers.

Rescue of the Quarter

Big Mac To Go – Home

Sometimes it takes a lot of persistence to capture a stray dog and sometimes it just takes a little "special sauce." A Shepherd mix had been roaming through Bellingham for two months despite the rescue efforts of the Animal Rescue League and local Animal Control Officer Lee Fluett. Finally, League staffers Alan Borgal, Rigaud Lee, Leslie Strahl, and Dina D'Andrea were able to catch the canine when they discovered the perfect bait, a Big Mac.

The elusive dog was captured at the Charles River Plaza in Bellingham. He was named "Big Mac" by workers at a nearby construction site who had witnessed the successful rescue. "Big Mac" was returned to animal control for the mandatory 10-day stray period and then transferred to the Animal Rescue League's Dedham branch.

Although friendly and outgoing, "Big Mac" had been essentially wild for two months and needed extended behavior training to assure a successful transition into a new home. "Big Mac," first worked with the League's behavior consultant and dog obedience instructor, Alan Cunningham. The dog was later sent to Nancy Fantom of Saddleback Pet Services in Northwood, New Hampshire for more intensive training.

"Big Mac," an eager to please canine, learned his lessons well and was soon ready for adoption. Mary and Paul Fitzgerald of Westwood have welcomed "Big Mac," now known simply as "Mac," into their family. He will require some continued training but thankfully, he is safe and happy in a new home.



UPDATE

by Bosmat Gal, D.V.M.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

What is FIV?

The feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) was first identified in California in 1986. Since then the virus has been found worldwide. The virus is classified as a lentivirus (or slow virus) and is related to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. People with HIV and cats with FIV have similar symptoms, such as severe weight loss, diarrhea, upper respiratory and other opportunistic infections. Eventually, the domestic cat will die due to the disease or its related illnesses. No evidence has been found that FIV can be transmitted to humans or any animals other than felines.

How prevalent is the infection?

In the United States, approximately 1.5 - 3 % of healthy cats are infected with FIV. Up to 15% of cats with clinical signs of other diseases are also infected with FIV.

How is FIV spread?

Older cats, male cats, and those that spend time outdoors have a higher infection rate of FIV. Most infections come from the bite of an infected cat, so an indoor cat has little risk. FIV does not appear to be spread by casual, non-aggressive contact among cats. Although the risk is low, if an owner has both infected and non-infected cats in one household it is preferable to keep the cats separated.

How does the virus affect the cat?

FIV infection can greatly weaken the immune system of the cat, often leaving him highly vulnerable to otherwise minor infectious agents such as bacteria,

fungi, viruses and protozoa. These agents normally pose little threat to a healthy animal, however, these agents can trigger serious secondary infections and disorders in a cat with FIV.

Testing and Diagnosis

Diagnosis is based on the history, clinical signs and result of an FIV antibody test. The test for FIV is a reliable procedure that detects the FIV antibody in the cat's blood. FIV antibodies are an indication of infection, not protection since the virus never goes away once it infects a cat. Testing a cat for FIV within a few weeks after infection can sometimes give a false negative reading since the antibodies may not yet be present. At least two tests several months apart are recommended to be certain of the proper diagnosis.

Treatment

A cat can be asymptomatic for months and even years. The cat should be kept indoors and must follow a regular schedule of vaccinations. The cat should also undergo a diagnostic workup to determine if there are any concurrent diseases. Any disease found should be treated aggressively. For the symptomatic cat there are some experimental drugs that appear to be beneficial, but there is no effective cure for FIV.

Prevention

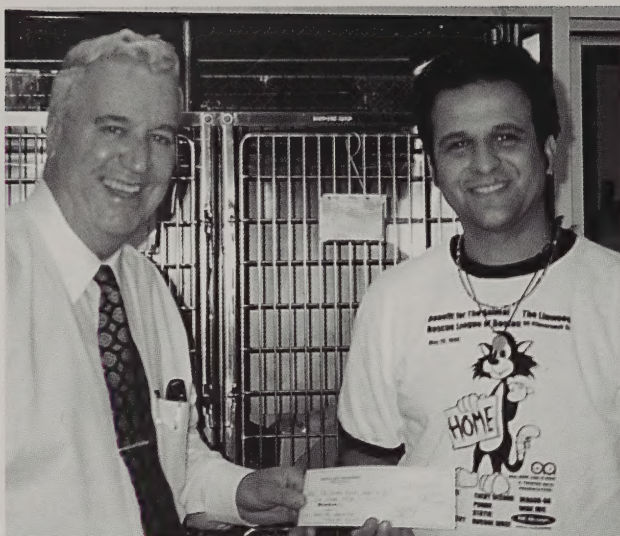
Although considerable effort is being made, there is currently no available vaccine against FIV. Effective control measures center around efforts to prevent the spread of infection. Determining the FIV antibodies status of all cats over 6 months of age should be the goal.

What is the link between humans and felines?

The similarities between the viruses that inflict felines and humans do not stop with symptoms caused by similar viruses. According to Dr. Stephen O'Brien, Ph. D., who heads the Laboratory of Genome Diversity at the National Cancer Institute, researchers are now discovering that cats can provide the genetic link to finding the cure for AIDS and some other human diseases like cancer. It was found that many similarities exist between human and cat chromosome organization, even more than the one between humans and mice. O'Brien's research has also discovered that the FIV was found in a wide variety of wild cats, such as lions, pumas, leopards and cheetahs. The virus didn't kill them, however, and they did not get sick. It is assumed that these wild cats developed some type of resistance to the virus long ago. Recently, it was found that one in five Americans of European descent carries a mutation in a certain gene that provides resistance to HIV. The discovery of this resistance is exciting the scientific community.

Natural adaptations to the virus that wild cats have acquired may allow us to overcome some of the incurable diseases in humans. The gene that provides resistance needs to be discovered, and eventually it will give researchers a good clue as to the kind of therapies to be developed, among them even gene therapy.

Do you have a question regarding general pet health? Please send it to Veterinary Update c/o Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA, 02117. 



Stephen Ricardo presents League President Arthur Slade with a check for money raised to benefit our animal friends.



Benefit at The Linwood

Toes were tapping on May 28 at The Linwood Grill on Kilmarnock Street in Boston. Music lovers got together for a fun evening on behalf of our animal friends. Stephen J. Ricardo of Twisted Rico Management recruited a talented group of friends to help raise money for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Among the musical acts were Ape Hangers, Caged Heat, Chrest, Denise Hradecky, Every Second, Purrr, Static, Uncool Niece, Verago-go and Wide Iris. The special night included T-shirts created especially for the event. The fundraiser raised \$700. Thank you to everyone involved.



League Hosts Seminar on "Link"

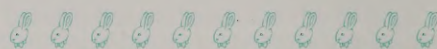
The first week in May is traditionally "National Be Kind to Animals Week." It is a time to celebrate the bond we share with our beloved pets. Unfortunately, not all people are able to bond with those in their family or the pets that share their homes. Domestic violence replaces the bond. There has been a proven "link" between domestic abuse and cruelty to animals.

In an effort to educate and cross-train professionals in the fields of law enforcement and animal and child welfare, the Animal Rescue League of Boston hosted the seminar, "Listening to Their Cries, the Abuse of Adults, Children and Animals."

Speakers for the seminar included nationally recognized experts on the Link. Presentations were made by Dr. Frank Ascione, professor at Utah State University and author of numerous research articles; Michael Kauffman, education coordinator with the American Humane Association (AHA); Loretta Kowal, LICSW, president of the national board of directors with AHA; Carrie Pekor-Jasper, LICSW, a specialist in

children and trauma; and League Law Enforcement officers, Captain Thom White, a recognized expert in the occult, and Lieutenant Alan Borgal, a specialist in the area of combatting professional dogfighting.

The well-attended event was held on May 6 at the Ramada Rolling Green Inn and Conference Center in Andover, MA.

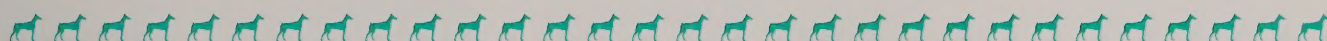


Volunteer Corner

To update everyone on the volunteer program, we currently have one hundred active volunteers. These highly motivated individuals have been helping the League with special events (rabies clinics, dog walk, fundraisers), animal care, cleaning cages, mailings, filing, etc. We appreciate all they have done and continue to do on behalf of the League!

At this time, volunteers are needed to help out with special events. If you have some extra time and would like to become involved, please contact the volunteer office at 617-426-9170 ext. 126.

** Congratulations to Avril Cohen, a volunteer at the Dedham branch, who was awarded the first Animal Rescue League of Boston scholarship award on May 9, 1998. Many thanks to you Avril for outstanding service!*



Annual Meeting Notes

The League's annual meeting was held on April 23 at the Boston Headquarters. League President Arthur Slade updated the crowd on the work of the League over the past year. Noting that the League's Centennial is almost upon us, Slade remarked on how far the League has come in its ability to serve the needs of animals in our community.

Three staff members gave brief talks regarding the efforts of their departments. Laurel Wellman, public relations coordinator, spoke about upcoming events, including plans for the Centennial, and displayed new League merchandise.

Lt. Alan Borgal, law enforcement coordinator, gave an overview of the type of cases law enforcement officers deal with. He described a typical day (or rather that there was no such thing). Borgal then focused on the issue of dog fighting and how the League is combating this serious problem. Mike Brammer, training and development coordinator, spoke about how his newly created position has fostered a greater level of confidence and preparedness among shelter staff. He explained that workers now have more extensive training on a greater variety of topics including how to rescue an animal in a difficult situation while also maintaining their own safety.



Laurel Wellman, public relations coordinator, shares her enthusiasm for the League's upcoming events with the audience.



Take it from the Experts

Mike Brammer, League Training and Development Coordinator, worked hard this year to generate a series of seminars for the benefit of the staff. Normally, one or two people are sent to outside seminars and upon their return, they relay the information by teaching others.

"These workshops made it easier and less expensive to teach a large group all at once," Mike says. "If you have outside experts available, it's good to utilize them."

The Red Cross presented the first of the workshops, First Aid for Pets. An informational handbook, detailing proper emergency care procedures, was issued to attendees for use during and after the course.

The next seminar, given by herpetologist Marla Isaac, addressed the topic, Reptile Encounters: Restraint and Handling. This hands-on session helped the staff become more comfortable working with reptiles.

Mike observed, "We take a lot of them [reptiles] in and do handle them so it was good that the staff got some additional training."

Hugh Mulligan, Assistant Shelter Manager at the Boston branch, commented about Ms. Isaac, "She was really good and knows an awful lot."

The third workshop, Dog Behavior, was a two-day affair presented by Sue Sternberg, a well-known dog behaviorist. Through this, employees learned to identify personality characteristics which would aid in finding the best adoption matches.

"This was, in part, a refresher but the material was more in-depth than most people had gotten before," said Mike.

The last in the series was presented by Teresa Wagner and addressed Euthanasia: Stress and Grief. This workshop provided a supportive look at a shelter reality.

These seminars were informative and well received by the employees. Thank you, Mike, for all of your hard work!



Book Reviews

Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul

By Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Marty Becker, D.V.M., and Carol Kline

It is a perfect match: the inspirational stories that the Chicken Soup series of books are known for and heartwarming tales about our animal friends. How could this book be anything but wonderful? These stories are sweet, funny and touching. Some will even bring a tear to your eye. Best of all, they convey what any pet lover already knows, that our lives are richer for having shared them with animals.

Petoberfest

1998

Join us at Petoberfest '98!

Looking for a fun-filled day of family togetherness? We cordially invite you to join us on Saturday, October 17 for Petoberfest '98! The fun will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham. Rain date will be Sunday, October 18.

This annual event will feature animals in the paddocks, presentations on reptiles and birds of prey, face painting, photos with Santa, craft tables, kiddie rides, music, silent auction and of course, baked goodies and concessions. We will also have a special tour of the shelter and introduction of our animal friends in the adoption center. As always, parking and admission are free.

Calling all chefs! This year a baking contest will be introduced at Petoberfest. Categories will include pies, cakes, cookies, muffins and bread.

Crafters are invited to purchase table space for \$25. Space is limited. If you make crafts with animal motifs or items for animals, this will be an ideal event for you. Please call Sonia Beals at 617-426-9170, ext. 119 to reserve space or to donate an item for our silent auction. See you at Petoberfest '98!

Bereaved Pet Owners Don't Have to "Go It Alone"



Everyone remembers their beloved lost pet in their own way. Some find it a comfort to visit their animal's gravesite at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Cemetery.

If you're like most pet owners, you have gone through pet loss. It's a fact that we generally outlive our pets, and so loss is an inevitable part of the full ownership experience. The interesting thing is that even though pet loss is such a common experience, many people feel alone and disconnected in their grief. Death simply makes people uncomfortable. It's not uncommon for people to feel embar-

rassed, misunderstood, or even a little crazy that they feel tremendous sadness when a pet dies. In a misguided attempt to help, well-meaning friends may inadvertently confirm these feelings by saying things like "It's only a dog," or "You can just get another one!" or "Why get so upset about an animal?" Strong emotions together with the sense of isolation make it difficult for people to process a pet's death in a healthy way. It's important to remember that the experience is nothing more complicated than grief—one of the most natural (and uncomfortable) emotions there is.

The good news is that there is a vast network of support for bereaved pet owners that includes rescue organizations, veterinarians and veterinary schools, pet loss hotlines, books, tapes, even on-line chat groups. There are many options and excellent resources available. Getting access to this important information isn't as difficult as it may seem. In fact, the Animal Rescue League has a special program—the Pet Loss Program—that is as close as your telephone. Marcia Lowry Maloney, an

experienced counselor and an Animal Rescue League volunteer, answers phone calls from bereaved pet owners and talks with them about what they are going through. She also provides callers with a brochure called "Good Grief! A Helpful Guide to Healthy Grieving After Pet Loss" as well as additional information about pet loss resources.

Many callers find it helpful just to talk to someone who understands what is happening and can provide assurance that the feelings being experienced are normal. Talking about the pet, the circumstances of its death, and one's feelings helps the grieving process. People cry sometimes, but crying is helpful too. Those sentiments and memories need to be expressed, and recognizing them as real and valuable validates the importance and significance of the pet's life. Sometimes just knowing that there is help available can be comforting. Please contact the Animal Rescue League's Pet Loss Program at (617) 426-9170 x-430 if we can help you!



1998 Annual Photography Contest

Congratulations to our winners



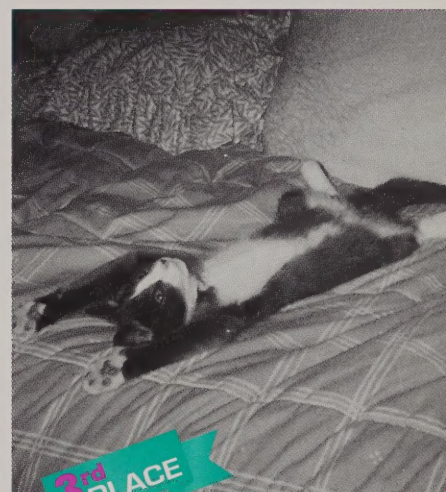
1st PLACE

Karl E. Schmith



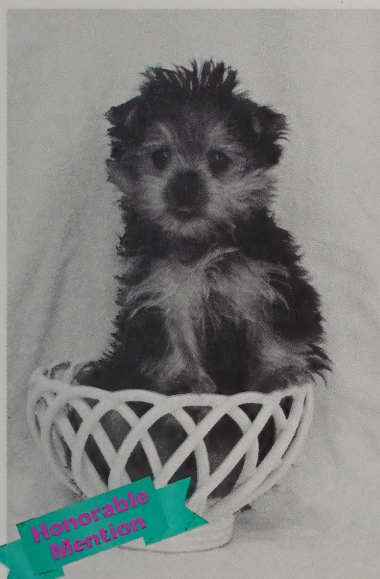
2nd PLACE

Luella Schroeder



3rd PLACE

Lois Stanton



Honorable Mention

Barbara Lehner



Honorable Mention

Myrna D. Bartlett



Honorable Mention

Brittany Lee (Children's Category)



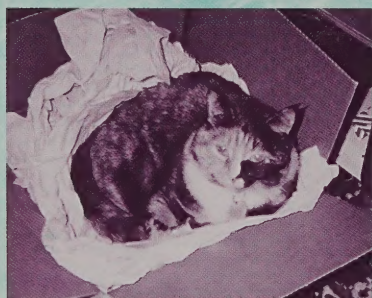
Doubling as fashion models wearing the League's new baseball hats, the 1998 Photo Contest judges present their final selections to League President Arthur Slade. It was not an easy job with so many wonderful entries.

Pictured left to right: J. Walter Green (Associated Press, retired); Jim Mahoney, president of the Boston Press Photographers Association; Arthur Slade; and League photographer and owner of Photography Unlimited, Bob Howard.

Cats Can Have A Happy And Healthy Life Exploring The Great Indoors

By Laurel G. Wellman

First he is perfectly still with his eyes staring intently on his target, then his back end begins to quiver, and suddenly—POUNCE he lunges toward his unsuspecting prey! Soon my proud feline returns to present me with his latest conquest which is dangling from his mouth. No, it is not a defenseless baby bird or a disease ridden rodent, instead my happy hunter is ecstatic over capturing a little plastic ball with neon colored feathers. My cat is an indoor cat. He is happy, healthy and enjoying all that life has to offer in the safety of my home.



Bags, boxes and bows will always entertain an inquisitive cat like "stuffing."

The Animal Rescue League of Boston recommends that all domesticated cats be raised indoors. Sharon Krogh, Boston shelter manager, sees on a daily basis what can happen to animals allowed to roam free. She explains, "an owner can provide their cat with a much better quality of life indoors.

Cats outside are exposed to a huge list of dangers." Life outdoors poses many threats to cats including: disease, parasites, poisoning, traps, extreme weather, attacks from other animals, injury or death from traffic accidents, and abuse by cruel people. In fact, the average lifespan of an indoor cat is three times longer than that of an owned outdoor cat.

The number one killer of outdoor cats is automobile accidents. But, your cat is in danger before it even gets out of your driveway. During the winter a cat may try to drink spilled anti-freeze, which is sweet tasting to cats but is also

fatal. In cold weather a cat may try to keep warm by climbing under a car near the engine. When the vehicle is started the animal will be trapped and become injured or killed by the moving parts. Walking on surfaces covered with road salt will cause a cat's paws to crack and bleed. During the summer a cat may accidentally ingest dangerous gardening chemicals, fertilizers, or pest control poisons. Even the beautiful flowers in your front lawn may be toxic.

Outdoor cats will surely get into a few fights while out on the town. Many owners take a "boys will be boys" attitude toward such behavior. However, fights with other cats are a serious matter and not simply because of the threat of rabies and other dangerous diseases. Your cat could come home after a fight with bites, scratches or wounds which if undetected could lead to abscesses that are life-threatening. Treating these injuries can be complicated and very expensive. Cats can also come out on the losing end of a fight with wildlife or a neighborhood dog.

Cats roaming outdoors may be picked up by animal control officers or concerned members of the public and risk not being reunited with their owners, especially if they do not have proper identification. "If there was only one piece of advice I could give, it would be to stress the importance of collars and I.D. tags," says Krogh. Cats without I.D. tags have less than a 5% chance of being returned to their owners. However, Krogh says, "if they have a proper tag on, we can get them home that day." Even indoor cats need to wear a collar and identification, in case they accidentally get outside or in the case of a fire or natural disaster. Always use a breakaway collar to prevent the cat from choking if the collar becomes caught on something.



After a lively game of hide and seek, it is time for a little cat nap for best buddies, Bella (top) and Tigger.

With a little effort and creativity you can make the great indoors just as exciting as the outdoors for your furry friend. The first thing you need to do is cat-proof your home. This won't take long. Remove all poisonous plants. Close off areas or hide objects in cabinets that you do not want your cat to get into. Look around your home from your cat's point of view. Do you see plenty of unobstructed climbing areas and high perches — on top of the refrigerator is a popular one. The cat should also have a scratching post at least two feet high and indoor greens for him to chew on.

Provide your cat with a room with a view. It may not be safe for your cat to be outside but it sure is fun to look at. Place a chair or other piece of furniture near a window so your cat can lounge while taking in the sights. Pet supply stores and catalogs sell special window seat attachments, if you prefer. Make sure the screen is secure if the window is open.

Toys, toys, toys. Furry and feathery toys are the most popular, but you do not need to break the bank to entertain your

cat. Anything that can be made to jump through the air is a good toy (i.e., a plastic bottle cap) provided there are no tiny pieces to ingest. While you are away from home allow your cat to explore. Leave out an open paper grocery bag or keep a closet door slightly ajar—not too much, it's more fun if the cat thinks it's a secret hiding place.

Be sure the cat gets enough exercise. Make time for daily play sessions with your cat. This advice is good for both of you, since fun time with your pet is a guaranteed stress reducer. How about a game of flashlight tag? You sit on the couch while the cat does all the work. Consider getting a second cat as a companion and exercise partner for your cat; you will get tired just watching these two chase each other around.

Converting your outdoor cat into an indoor cat will take patience. Some cats may develop temporary behavior problems. It is best to make the transition slowly. Allow your cat supervised excursions outside while increasing the amount of exercise, play and attention it receives indoors. Most of all give the animal love.

If you feel that you cannot change your pet's lifestyle at this time, and want to continue allowing your cat(s) outdoors, there are some precautions that we strongly urge you to follow. The pet should be properly vaccinated and wear a collar with I.D. tags at all times. According to the League's Director of Veterinary Medicine, Bosmat Gal, D.V.M., a cat that is allowed outdoors must have up-to-date vaccinations for rabies, distemper, feline leukemia, and feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). Dr. Gal cautioned, however, that there are other diseases and health problems that a cat may be exposed to outdoors for which there is no vaccine available. The League also advises that a cat be allowed outdoors only during daylight hours and be properly supervised. Many cats can be trained to walk on a lead or harness, or the owner may want to consider building an outdoor enclosure so that the cat is safe from other animals and unable to wander off.

An unaltered cat allowed to roam will also contribute to the tremendous problem of pet overpopulation. It is imperative that all pets, especially free-roaming cats, be spayed or neutered. This will also reduce their urge to roam which will hopefully keep them closer to home.

A cat provided with a stimulating environment by its owner will not miss the outdoors and indoor cats live much longer, healthier, and happier lives. Please consider introducing your outdoor cat to an indoor lifestyle or bringing up your next feline as an indoor cat. An animal will not miss what he or she has never known, and you will be able to share many more good times with your feline friends. 



THAT DOGGONE WALK



The doggone weather didn't put a damper on That Doggone Walk. The Animal Rescue League of Boston's first annual dog walk was quite a success despite a wet and dreary day. Over 100 walkers and a large pack of their four-footed companions walked along the 2.1 mile route at Castle Island in South Boston on Saturday, May 9.

It was quite a sight to see the multitude of smiling faces marching around the fort and beside the water, along with all those happy canines sporting their bright blue dog walk bandannas. Walkers practically had Castle Island to themselves since only our dedicated friends of animals ventured out on this less than perfect day. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all and the event raised nearly \$7,000 for the care of animals aided by the League.

In celebration of National Be Kind to Animals Week, a Blessing of the Animals was officiated by Pastoral Assistant Christina Belogour of the First Baptist Church of Boston prior to the walk. The League's 1998 Humane Awards were then presented by League President Arthur Slade. The first recipient was Iseult



It was hard to tell who had more fun, the people or their dogs. Here are "Shandy" (l.) and "Peaches" proudly displaying their bandannas.

Conlin, a young girl who had rescued a severely injured guinea pig from her yard and brought it to League headquarters. Unfortunately, the young animal could not be saved, yet Iseult's compassion is praiseworthy. "J.P. Basch-Recker," a Lab, was our animal recipient. "J.P." had alerted his master that a neighbor's house was on fire and consequently saved two lives. A third humane award went to Rick and Cheryl Bushee for their courage in reporting and helping to prosecute a man who was habitually abusing his dog. Thanks to their efforts the dog, Snoopy, was removed from his abusive home and eventually placed in a safe and happy new home. The Bushees were unable to attend the ceremony.

This year, one special student was presented with our first Animal Rescue League of Boston Scholarship Award. Avril Cohen, 17, donated close to 300 hours of her time at the Animal Rescue League's shelter in Dedham last summer. In recognition of her extraordinary compassion for animals, outstanding volunteer service, and dedication to the League, she was awarded with a plaque and a \$500 scholarship. The first place winner of the 1998 Animal Photography Contest, Karl E. Schmith, was also on hand to accept his award (see photos displayed on page 7.)

The League's staff and volunteers had fun and worked hard putting together this special event; they were joined by many others who contributed to the festivities. Radio Disney, the title sponsor, provided the day's entertainment along with ice cream and lots of fun giveaways. Glow Dog, which donated the fabulous bandannas, was on hand to show off their special reflective gear for pets and people. Trader Joe's provided treats for walkers and dogs alike.

The Massachusetts State Police K-9 Unit gave a short demonstration with their talented canines. Unfortunately, a second presentation by the Boston Police Department K-9 Unit had



Avril Cohen was the surprised recipient of the Animal Rescue League of Boston's first Scholarship Award, presented by League President Arthur Slade.

Ruairi White, in his puppy costume, pauses to pet a furry participant.



to be canceled due to the weather. We appreciate both departments attending and thank them for the good work they do all year long. A special thank you goes to our friends at the Metropolitan District Commission for making us feel welcome at Castle Island.

Organizers of the walk were surprised and touched to see

how many walkers had gone out of their way to solicit large numbers of donations on behalf of the League. Thank you to all who participated.

Prizes were awarded to the following top pledge-getters in various categories.

Grand Prize - Suzanne Martin

Suzanne raised an astonishing \$1,100! Of Special Note: Suzanne joined the walk with her dog, "Ben." The very next day she visited the League's Boston shelter and adopted a second canine companion, "Sammy." Congratulations to the happy family.

Team Prize - Alex and Carrie Alpert

Dog Category Prize - Claudia Orleans

Cat Category Prize - Helen Kisiel

Special recognition goes to Helen's friend, Colette Camiel. When asked for a small contribution, Colette went out instead and collected hundreds of dollars in donations. Thanks Colette!

All Animals Prize - Nancy Lyndes

Children's Prize (co-winner) - Mark Loughran

Children's Prize (co-winner) - Michael Vogel

The Animal Rescue League of Boston would like to express its sincere gratitude to the sponsors of the first annual That Doggone Walk.



TITLE SPONSOR

- Radio Disney



TOP DOG

- Margaretha Bleakney Charitable Trust
- Metropolitan District Commission
- Newport Creative Communications

CAT'S MEOW

- EMI Strategic Marketing
- Peg Gavenonis
- Glow Dog, Inc.

PUPPIES AND KITTENS

- Beech Tree Inn
- Breath Friend
- The Cape Cod Potato Chip Company
- Crown Linen Service, Inc.
- Richard A. Hall
- Hartz Mountain Corporation
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- Patricia Pickett, MD
- Maria Scott, Eclipse Signs
- Trader Joe's
- John L. Worden III

CUDDLY CRITTERS

- Shepard Brown
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- Shear Madness
- Sherpa's Pet Trading Company
- Star Market - The World Market
- Sullivan's
- Vinny Testa's Bar Ristorante
- Wollaston's

Thank you to Robin Pawlak for creating the That Doggone Walk logo displayed on our brochure, poster and t-shirt, and to the creative people at EMI Strategic Marketing for designing the brochure.

Animal Fri

A special feature for our younger readers

The Day Tracie Lost Her Marbles!

Tracie has a tuxedo cat named Marbles. Marbles is just over a year old and is an indoor cat.

One day while Tracie was at school, her mother had the plumber come over to fix the clogged kitchen sink. Marbles, who was quite the curious cat, needed to meet the new guest in the house. "Well hello kitty!" said the plumber to Marbles. "Are you going to help me fix the sink today?" The plumber laughed as Marbles let out a loud "meoww" and nudged the plumber's hand with his head. He had made a friend.

"Well that should do it," the plumber exclaimed as he finished up fixing the kitchen sink. "It should work as good as new." The plumber packed up his belongings and began to head to the door. Of course, Marbles was right beside him escorting him to the door. As the plumber opened the door, he felt a push on his leg. Marbles had escaped out the door! The plumber tried to catch Marbles, but it was too late. Marbles ran as fast as he could down the road, the big outdoors awaited him!

That afternoon when Tracie arrived home, Marbles did not come out to greet her like he did every day. "Marbles, I'm home!" yelled Tracie. Tracie's Mom came out. "Tracie I have some bad news. The plumber was over this morning and when he was leaving Marbles ran out the door. I looked all over the neighborhood and could not find him. I told the postal man, the newspaper carrier, and the neighbors to be on the look out for Marbles. He has not come home since."

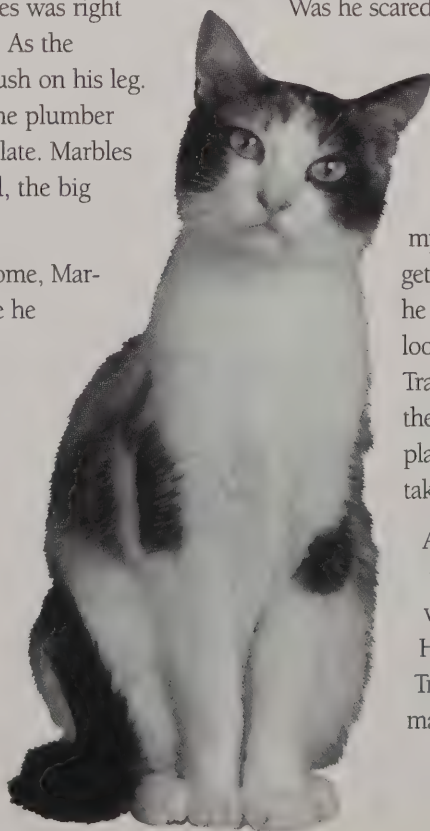
Tracie could not believe what she was hearing, she couldn't live without Marbles!

Tracie wanted to do everything she could to find her kitty. She called the police department in her town and spoke with the animal control officer. She filed a missing cat report. She called some area veterinary and boarding facilities and the humane society in her town to make them aware that Marbles had strayed from home. Then she sat down at the table and made fliers with Marbles' picture and description to be posted around town.

A couple of days passed and Marbles had not returned home. Tracie began to worry — had she done enough to find him. Was he scared of being all alone? Did someone find him?

Just then the phone rang and Tracie picked it up. "Hello..." Tracie said. "Hello, I am looking for the owner of Marbles," said the woman on the other line. "That would be me," Tracie stated. "I found this black and white tuxedo cat on my front steps this morning when I was going to get the morning paper. He was meowing away. I saw he had a collar with tags on it, so I decided to take a look. It said Marbles and gave this phone number." Tracie explained the whole story to the woman on the phone and then they decided on a meeting place so that Tracie could take Marbles home.

As soon as Tracie got off the phone, she ran to find her Mom. She was so ecstatic. "Mom, a woman found Marbles and he's coming home!" Her mother smiled and gave Tracie a hug. "See Tracie, and here you thought you had lost your marbles!!" They both giggled at the statement.



ends




Dear Gretel

My dog is extremely afraid of loud noises, especially thunder and fireworks. Will my dog grow out of this behavior?

Dear concerned dog owner,

Without proper treatment, an animal can't outgrow a fear of thunder, firecrackers or other loud noises. In fact, the animal's fears may get worse if left untreated. The reason they have those fears is because they feel they are in danger or being threatened.

In your dog's case, it is important that he be allowed to hear the fear-producing noise without experiencing the fear behavior. It is possible to do this! Gradual exposure to the noise through a behavior modification process called desensitization or counter conditioning may prove successful. There are some pamphlets put out by Gaines that talk about this treatment plan, but it probably is best to consult with a certified animal behaviorist before beginning to treat your dog for a fear behavior.

Food, play or petting your dog while treating your dog may be beneficial. Just be aware that you don't want your dog to become dependent upon food rewards to counteract the fear behavior.

It may never be known why your dog displays this fear behavior, but it is important to seek treatment for the problem.



Hey Kids!

Do you have questions for Gretel? Write in and if your question gets published in *Our Fourfooted Friends* magazine, you'll receive a free Animal Rescue League of Boston t-shirt. Send your questions to:

Questions

Letters to Gretel, The Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

friends of the quarter



Carter School students lending a helping hand.

Helping Hands

The Animal Rescue League of Boston would like to extend its thanks to the Carter School students from Boston.

These students have done many tasks in the past year that have really helped out our animals here at the shelter.

The students were mentioned in the winter edition of *Our Fourfooted Friends* for their help in decorating Tribute Tree ornaments. Their help did not stop there.

Every Thursday and Friday the students are at the Animal Rescue League headquarters to assemble litter boxes for cats to be used in the shelter and adoption center. They also help in some administrative duties such as the stuffing and sealing of envelopes.

At the end of their time here the students sit back and visit with some of the animals waiting to be placed in loving homes.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston appreciates all the time the Carter School students have given to lend a helping hand.

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If you or someone you know has been performing good deeds on behalf of our animal friends, send us a photo and letter with all the details! If we publish your story, we'll send you a League t-shirt!

Send entries to:

Friend of the Quarter

Animal Rescue League of Boston

P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117

Participants must be twelve years of age or younger.

Pets in the



1.

Cathy Nairne of Boston adopted "Robert" from our Boston shelter in February. Cathy notes that he "has made himself right at home." "Robert" was introduced to a "sister cat and brother dog" in Cathy's home and the threesome have been getting along very well!

2.

Christine Fowler of Brewster wrote that "Bandit" is quite the energetic two-year-old. "He loves to play Frisbee and recently realized that he can, in fact, swim in water over his head."

3.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Farrell sent this adorable photo of "Bubba," who they adopted from the Brewster branch. They tell us "he is a great dog" except for one small thing — "he thinks he's a lap dog!"

4.

"Guinness" has brought constant joy to his owners, Shannon Larkin and Joseph Avin of Cambridge. This quick learner was housebroken in two weeks and has already completed six weeks of obedience school.



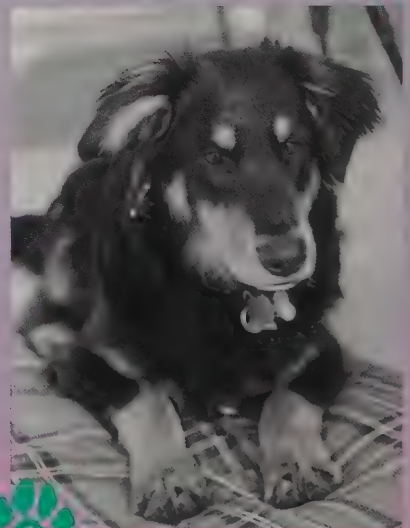
His wagging tail gives away his friendly nature and he loves to have his belly scratched. Be sure to "shake hands" with "Guinness" if you are fortunate enough to meet him.

5.

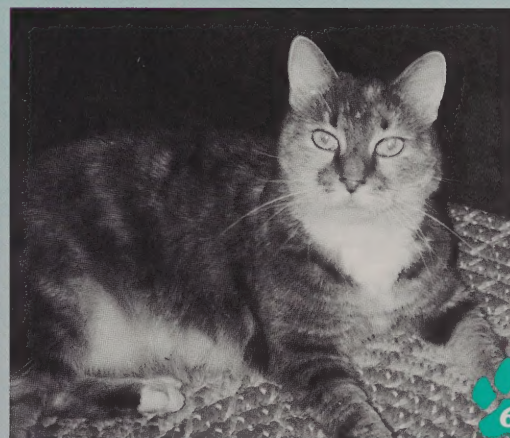
Despite her allergies, Judy Dawes of Swampscott is the proud owner of "Tangerine," a cat she adopted from the Salem branch in March 1997. Judy says, "She meows out the window at me as I return from work." Over-the-counter remedies are keeping her allergy at bay so far and besides, "her company makes any discomfort worthwhile."

6.

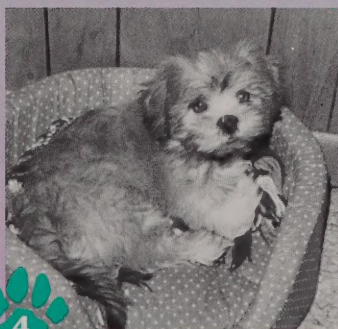
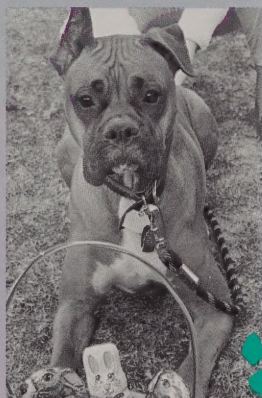
Ed Goodman of Jamaica Plain adopted ten-year-old "Stella" six years ago from the Boston shelter. He describes her as an incredible cat because of her rare talent. "Stella" drinks from the bottom of a tall glass by dipping her paw in and licking it. Her companionship has brought Ed "a great deal of joy, fun and comfort."



Picture



Gone But Not Forgotten



1. "Kory"

(pictured behind beloved friend, Jenny)

"Kory," there would have never been a right time for us to say good-bye to you, but there was a right time to let you go. Our quantity of time together has ended, but our quality of life together had to be assured — and so we parted. Till we meet again — we love you and miss you terribly!! — The Cunningham family

2. "Tiger"

"Tiger was a wonderful companion," writes Sonia Beals of her beloved Boxer. "He will be remembered for his playful, yet protective nature. He loved the water, and Chloe." He will be forever missed and his memory treasured.

3. "Teddy"

"Teddy" was a beautiful black cat, writes Carole Rose of South Weymouth, "I loved him very much." "Teddy" joined Carole Rose's family as a kitten in 1981. He will always be in her heart.

4. "Neeko"

"Neeko" was a constant companion to Delia and Joe Cibotti of Hyde Park for nine years. They have many fond memories including how much "Neeko" loved Mrs. Cibotti's pizzelle cookies. "Neeko" will be missed by his family and friends, "Roscoe" (a dog) and "Buttons" (a cat).

Pet Loss Group

The loss of a beloved pet can be a difficult experience. The League is now offering support services to the public. If you are interested in participating in a group or have questions about pet loss, please call Marcia Lowry Maloney, LMHC at 617-426-9170 ext. 430.



Sit Up & Beg

The staff at the League has developed the following "wish list" of items that would add to the safety, care, or comfort of our animal friends. If you would like to donate any of these items, or contribute toward the purchase of a piece of equipment, please call (617) 426-9170.

Towels and Blankets

Used to line cages for comfort and warmth, as well as in ambulances and after bathing (still needed in the hot summer months).

Cat and Dog Toys (still in packaging)

Special Request: Dog toys such as Kong toys, Nylabones, Booda rope toys and Buster Cubes; approx. \$15 a piece.

Used to help reduce the stress level of the animals while in the shelter.

Animal Intensive Care Unit

Unit would be used to regulate temperature and humidity for the care of sick birds and reptiles; \$500

Infrared Heat Bulbs

Used to heat reptile cages; \$10 a piece

Hypalon Inflatable Boat

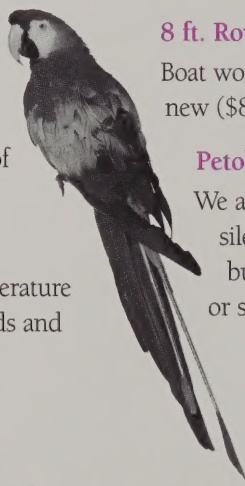
Boat would be used for water rescues of geese, swans, etc., with broken wings or that have been caught in fishing line; \$1,899

8 ft. Row Boat

Boat would be used for pond rescues of wildlife; new (\$800) or used

Petoferfest '98 Auction items

We are in need of items and/or services for our silent auction. Are you or do you know a business owner who can donate a product or service for auction? For further details, please call 617-426-9170, ext. 109.



Thank You

We would like to gratefully thank the following friends for their generous contributions:

Donation Box Host

Dedham Veterinary Associates

Dog Food and Dog Treats

A big thank you to Radio Disney and Purina! An entire van filled with dog food and dog treats was presented to our canine friends at the Boston shelter. Special thanks to Scott Halstead, Radio Disney account executive, for coordinating the donation.

Coin Art

Adrienne Deutsch presented the League with a very unique donation at the recent annual meeting. She created two lovely flower arrangements out of coins.

Advertising Space

Thanks to Jeff Maziarz and his colleagues at Parents' Plus for donating an advertisement in The Parents' Paper. The ad will help us to promote the League and generate more adoptions.

Thank you to the many thoughtful animal lovers who take time to stop at our shelter locations to drop off blankets, towels and toys. Your kindness provides comfort, warmth and happiness to our furry friends.

show your support

and help spread awareness of the Animal Rescue League of Boston by wearing and using these new League items!

All of these promotional items may be purchased at League locations in Boston, Brewster, Dedham and Salem, or may be ordered by mail.



Blue Ribbon Pin
\$5.00 ea.



Tote Bag
\$12.00 ea.



Water Bottle
\$2.50 ea.



Ceramic Coffee Mug
\$3.00 ea.

Baseball Hats
\$12.00 ea.

"ARL Logo" Hat

"Centennial" Hat



T-Shirt
(S, M, L, XL)

\$10.00 ea.

Children's
(S, M, L)

\$7.00 ea.



Sweatshirt
(S, M, L, XL)

\$18.00 ea.

Children's
(S, M, L)

\$15.00 ea.



Sweatpants
(S, M, L)

\$18.00 ea.

Please send me:



Quantity	Item	Size	Cost
Total (Please add \$3.00 for shipping and handling for orders \$10 and over or if ordering two or more ceramic mugs.)			

NAME

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. (Please remember shipping and handling charge if applicable.) Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Mail to: Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117



The Animal Rescue League of Boston's first annual That Doggone Walk.



Our fourfooted friends (US ISSN 0030 6851)

Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265 Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Address Correction Requested